

**PARLIAMENT OF INDIA
RAJYA SABHA**

ERRATA
to the list of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS for
Tuesday, July 27, 2021/Sarvana 5, 1943 (Saka)

Q. No.	Corrections
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846. May be treated as **cancelled**.

892. May be treated as **cancelled**.

- In the index, Question No. 846 may be **deleted** from the Ministry of Finance.
- In the index, Question No. 892 may be **deleted** from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

New Delhi,
July 26, 2021.

Copy to:-

1. Ministry of Finance.
2. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
3. Translation Section, Rajya Sabha Sectt.
4. E.O.D., Rajya Sabha Sectt.
5. Table Office (2 spare copies).
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Rajya Sabha

List of Questions for WRITTEN ANSWERS

to be asked at a sitting of the Rajya Sabha to be held on
Tuesday, July 27, 2021/ 05 Shraavana, 1943 (Saka)

(Ministries : Ayush; Corporate Affairs; Culture; Earth Sciences; Finance; Health and Family Welfare; New and Renewable Energy; Power; Science and Technology; Tourism)

Total number of questions -- 160

Status of Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas

801 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Ayush** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Medicinal Plants Conservation and Development Areas (MPCDAs) established under the supervision of the National Medicinal Plants Board, State-wise;
- (b) the amount of funds sanctioned and spent on establishing MPCDAs, as on date; and
- (c) the role of MPCDAs in improving the lives of tribal communities?

National Medicinal Plants Board

802 **Shri Ramkumar Verma:**

Will the Minister of **Ayush** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) has formulated any new scheme to boost the cultivation and production of medicinal plants and herbs in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the fresh steps taken by Government for development of quality planting material of medicinal plants and herbs in different agro-climatic zones?

Active AYUSH Centres in the country

803 **Dr. Anil Agrawal:**

Will the Minister of **Ayush** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of AYUSH Centres that are functioning at present in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government proposes to set up more AYUSH Centres in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries in Maharashtra

804 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of **Ayush** be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of Homoeopathic, Unani, Siddha and Naturopathy practitioners in place vis-a-vis the total number of AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries operating in the country,

State-wise/Union Territory-wise, including Maharashtra particularly;

(b) the steps taken by Government to bring AYUSH medical services in the mainstream; and

(c) whether Government proposes to set up any Ayurvedic, Unani or Homoeopathy hospitals in Maharashtra and, if so, the details thereof?

Fund allocation for R&D under AYUSH during 2017-2021

805 Shri Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharyya:

Will the Minister of *Ayush* be pleased to state:

(a) the number of doctors being recruited under AYUSH during last five years and the current year, State-wise;

(b) the amount of funds allotted and utilised during this period in Research and development in AYUSH; and

(c) the number of AYUSH Units setup by Government during the years 2019, 2020, 2021?

Policy for treatment of diseases through AYUSH

806 # Smt. Kanta Kardam:

Will the Minister of *Ayush* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is trying to develop India as a Global hub for treatment of diseases through AYUSH system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the major policy initiative to popularise the treatment of various diseases through AYUSH system?

Identified districts under National AYUSH Mission

807 # Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:

Will the Minister of *Ayush* be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance provided by the Ministry to identify districts of the country under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National AYUSH Mission; and

(b) the total amount provided to identify districts for cultivation of medicinal plants during the last three years under the scheme?

Additional integrated AYUSH Hospitals in Andhra Pradesh

808 Shri Parimal Nathwani:

Will the Minister of *Ayush* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plans to sanction any additional AYUSH hospitals under the National AYUSH Mission apart from the ones sanctioned at Kakinada and Visakhapatnam in the next financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of Integrated Hospitals sanctioned under the NAM during the last two years with the respective budget allocations, State-wise?

Promotion of medicinal plants and herbs

809 Dr. C.M. Ramesh:

Will the Minister of *Ayush* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to promote production of medicinal plants and herbs in

the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of allotment of land in various States during the last three years, by National Medicinal Plants Board to encourage the farmers to cultivate medicinal plants in the country, State-wise?

CSR activities in Uttar Pradesh

810 **Shri Syed Zafar Islam:**

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) the number of organizations working in the social sectors including Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) projects such as environment, skill development, water, research and sanitation through CSR activities in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the details of the funds sanctioned/allocated/utilised by the above said organizations/NGOs during the last three years?

Affirmative provisions in NAP-BHR for land conflicts

811 **Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:**

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has recognized the land rights as human rights and, if so, the details of the measures taken by Government to address the issues related to the alarming nature of land conflicts between the public/private business entities and the citizens/farmers etc; and

(b) the measures taken by Government to ensure the affirmative provisions in the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR) to address the issues related to the land conflicts?

Common CSR management

812 **Shri Prashanta Nanda:**

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to establish common CSR activities management group/committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Responsible Business Conduct

813 **Shri Prashanta Nanda:**

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reporting framework for responsible business conduct has been created;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Identification of shell companies

814 # **Shri Neeraj Dangri:**

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has developed any smart mechanism to identify shell companies in the country;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the action taken against such shell companies during the last three years and current year so far, the State/Union Territory-wise details of the action taken in this regard?

Foreign Companies in India

815 Shri Binoy Viswam:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of foreign companies registered during each of the last three years and the revenue earned therefrom, sector-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (b) the number of such companies set up with foreign capital and those set up with domestically generated capital separately, company/Sector-wise;
- (c) the total number of employees who are working in these foreign companies in India;
- (d) whether certain foreign companies/entities are conducting online activities without getting themselves registered; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government to safeguard the interest of Indian consumers and investors?

CSR towards mitigation of COVID-19 crisis in the country

816 Shri Rajmani Patel:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been an increase in the expenditure from public sector and private sector companies from their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds towards mitigation of the COVID-19 crisis in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the activities carried out from the CSR funds during the last 15 months; and
- (c) whether Government has taken any special step to incentivise the companies to increase the utilisation of the CSR funds for the COVID-19 crisis?

Shutting down of private companies

817 Shri Ripun Bora:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in the name of COVID-19 more than lakhs of private companies have been shut down in the last six months;
- (b) if so, the closed units as well as new companies which have registered during April, 2020 to June, 2021 thereof, State-wise;
- (c) the number of unemployed registered and losses incurred as reported thereto; and
- (d) the proposal of Government to assess the fact and reality thereof and the action to be taken thereon?

Modification in CSR framework

818 Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:

Will the Minister of **Corporate Affairs** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has recently modified Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) rules;
- (b) if so, the details of modifications in the CSR framework;
- (c) how the proposed changes will help in effective implementation of CSR projects; and

(d) the efforts being made by Government to ensure that CSR funds are spent across all States instead of concentrating in some States?

Freezing of 20 Indian Government properties in Paris

819 **Shri Sushil Kumar Modi:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a French Court has ordered to freeze 20 Indian Government properties in Paris amounting ₹ 177 Crore in a case pertaining to Cairn Energy;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that permanent Court of Arbitration at the Hague has ruled \$ 1.2 billion award in favour of Cairn Energy; and
- (c) if so, the action Government has initiated to protect the interest of the country and the details thereof?

Status of National School of Drama

820 **Shri K.C. Ramamurthy:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) the aims and objectives of the National School of Drama;
- (b) the details of NSD centres in the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there have been demands to open more centres of NSD in various States;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and action taken thereon in this regard;
- (e) whether it is a fact that the Ministry is proposing to grant NSD the status of Institution of National Importance; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, and status of the process?

Special cultural fund for cultural development in Jharkhand

821 # **Shri Deepak Prakash:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any mechanism to set up a special cultural fund for organising cultural programmes at district level to promote our precious culture, especially to promote the cultural/ tourist places of Jharkhand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the regular process to be carried out with the concerned authorities and nodal agencies regarding the said objective including the funds allocated for Jharkhand and regular process for organising such events to promote tourism and business in the State?

Conservation of tribal culture

822 # **Ms. Saroj Pandey:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any action plan has been formulated by Government for the conservation and promotion of tribal culture in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details of such action plan alongwith the amount of financial allocation being made for the scheme per year?

Excavations at Sanauli in Uttar Pradesh

823 **Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the excavations conducted at Sanauli in Uttar Pradesh initially in 2005-06 and subsequently during 2017-18 and 2019 have led to path-breaking discoveries in Indian archaeology;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reason for stalling the excavations in continuation of 2018-19 even though other significant aspects of the site and the culture it represents still remain to be archaeologically established; and
- (d) whether excavations conducted earlier have established co-relationship between the burials found along with grave goods, including chariots, headgear, etc. and human settlement at Sanauli and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Action plan for preservation of tribal culture

824 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government proposes any action plan for the preservation and promotion of languages, folk dances, art and culture of the tribals in the country and, if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (b) the details of the financial assistance given to various agencies/Non Governmental Organisations for the said purpose during each of the last three years and the current year?

Folk cultures in the country and schemes to safeguard it

825 **Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various folk cultures are on the verge of extinction;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken by Government to keep them alive;
- (c) whether Government is aware that many folk artists of Indian culture are on the verge of starvation;
- (d) if so, whether Government is considering any specific scheme to safeguard these folk artists; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Preserving and promoting contemporary literary heritage

826 **Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is running any scheme for preserving and promoting contemporary literary heritage of the country, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether any initiative has been taken to digitize works of our national poet Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether Government will consider starting a national award in the name of Shri Ramdhari Singh Dinkar in the field of literature to honour his contribution?

National Mission on Cultural Mapping and Roadmap

827 **Shri Parimal Nathwani:**

Will the Minister of **Culture** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had undertaken a cultural mapping and roadmap under the National Mission on Cultural Mapping;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the process was undertaken in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof of the cultures or villages that were mapped in the above two States?

Non sharing of information by IT Department in UP

828 # **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in October 2015, a search was conducted under the jurisdiction of the Uttar Pradesh C.I.T (Central) Kanpur in the case of an assessee and it was found that an amount of ₹ 50,00,000 was deposited to the Allahabad Development Authority (ADA) for the procurement of map for the construction of an approved hospital by the assessee;
- (b) whether it was found out in the investigation that a luxurious residence was built in place of the hospital; and
- (c) whether Government is aware that the Income Tax Department had not given the said information to Allahabad Development Authority; and
- (d) if so, the action that would be taken by Government against those responsible for it?

Development of an indigenous climate model

829 **Shri Sujeet Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

whether Government has developed an indigenous climate model to predict the impact of climate change on monsoon in the country, if so, the details thereof?

Conversion of sea water to potable water

830 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any scheme to convert sea water into potable water keeping in view the continuous shortage of drinking water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to extend this scheme to other parts of the country including certain areas of Kerala where there is shortage of clean drinking water?

Popularising Earth Science among masses

831 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps that are being taken to popularise Earth Science and to create awareness among people as Earth is facing many challenges and now the focus is shifting to safeguard Earth;
- (b) the number of institutions related to Earth Science functioning in the country and number

of scientists working there;

(c) whether these institutes are linked together and functioning with mutual cooperation;

(d) number of publications of these institutes in the last five years and their main titles; and

(e) details of journal published by the Ministry of Earth Science or any of its institutes?

Threat to Indian Island archipelagos

832 **Shri Ripun Bora:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian island archipelagos are under threat of danger to sink under seas;

(b) if so, details of islands sank in last five years and the action that has been taken by Government to address the problems therefor; and

(c) details of representations received so far from different ecologists, biologists, conservatives and experts to address the problems thereof?

Implementing Earthquake Early Warning System

833 **Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):**

Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to implement Earthquake Early Warning System and if so, the details and present status thereof along with the time by which the said project is likely to be completed;

(b) whether this project is working on the prediction of an impending earthquake and process data through GPRS after sensing the primary waves of an earthquake and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any technology available with all security features to sense primary waves of an earthquake; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Study of Glaciology in the country

834 **Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:**

Will the Minister of **Earth Sciences** be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Government or private universities in the country undertake undergraduate or postgraduate courses on glaciology and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of students who have been enrolled for glaciology courses since 2010;

(c) the number of students who have completed glaciology courses since 2010; and

(d) whether the Ministry has any estimates on the number of glaciologists needed in the country and the steps Government has taken to popularise glaciology?

Inclusion of petrol and diesel in GST

835 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal by Government in the GST Council to include petrol and diesel in GST;

(b) whether Government can assure that the price of petrol and diesel will come down if these are included in GST;

(c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons for Government officials and ministers

- continuously advocating for the inclusion of petrol and diesel in GST;
- (d) the reasons for prices of LPG cylinders increasing despite the same being included in GST; and
- (e) the average loss of revenue to each State if the petrol and diesel are included in GST?

GST dues to States

836 **Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of GST dues owed to States including Punjab for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the details of GST dues actually paid to States for the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether there is a discrepancy in the GST dues owed and dues paid to States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

Financial Crisis Management

837 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Financial Stability and Development Council's (FSDC) non-statutory status prevents it from risk assessment, management, supervision and monitoring of the financial system;
- (b) if so, whether Government plans to make the FSDC a statutory body, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of current statutory bodies in place for financial crisis management at a macroeconomic scale, especially in situations similar to the COVID-19 pandemic?

GST compensation paid to States

838 **Shri K.T.S. Tulsi:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

total amount of compensation paid to the States to cover shortfall for the loss of revenue faced by States from the date of enforcement of GST law and the details thereof?

Gross NPA Ratio

839 **Shri K.T.S. Tulsi:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

the gross Non-Performing Asset (NPAs) ratio of the country in the last three years and prospective gross NPA ratio for the present year and the details thereof?

GST Council decision taken in 43rd meeting

840 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of decisions taken in the 43rd meeting of the GST Council;
- (b) whether GST Council has given tax exemption to food supplied for mid-day meals, pre-schools and anganwadis, etc.; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Revenue generated by State of Odisha and shared with Centre

841 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

the details of the revenue generated by the State of Odisha and shared with the Centre over the past three years in a year-wise and item-wise manner?

NPAs' impact on economy

842 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has the knowledge that there have been reports of increase in Non Performing Assets (NPAs) in India, if so, the details of data for the last five years;
- (b) the reasons for the increase in the NPAs;
- (c) its impacts on the Indian economy; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to tackle the issue of increase in the NPAs?

Paradise Papers Scam

843 **Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Ray:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of undeclared assets of Indian nationals that have been identified by the tax authorities in the Paradise Papers scam till June 2021;
- (b) names of the Indians exposed during investigation, who moved money in and out of global tax havens; and
- (c) the number of the Indians or body of persons who stashed money outside India and arrested, the details thereof?

Higher interest rate on home loans from NBFCs

844 # **Shri Deepak Prakash:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has ever estimated the total number of persons having borrowed home loans from NBFCs and nationalized/commercial banks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware of the fact that some financial institutions under NBFCs are charging almost double rate of interest on home loans as compared to nationalised banks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken on such exploitative institutions; and
- (e) the reasons for person taking home loans from NBFCs at twice the rate of interest?

Setting up of Digital Banking Infrastructure Corporation

845 **Smt. Ambika Soni:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to set up a Digital Banking Infrastructure Corporation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to facilitate digital banking, door step banking services and also digital lending platforms to the people across the country?

Restoration of DA/DR

& 846 **Dr. Santanu Sen:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the DA/DR of Central Government employees and pensioners has been frozen and why;
- (b) when DA/DR increment is going to be restored; and
- (c) whether Government has any idea about the troubles of pensioners because of this decision?

GST payments to States

847 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the GST payments made to the States and the outstanding payments and the details thereof; and
- (b) by when Government expects all the GST payments to the States to be completed and the timeline in this regard, State-wise?

Disinvestment of profit-making PSUs

848 **Shri Sambhaji Chhatrapati:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether only a few PSUs are loss-making whereas a much greater number of PSUs are profit-making;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has decided to disinvest even those PSUs which are profit-making; and
- (d) if so, the details of such PSUs and the reasons for their disinvestment?

Disinvestment of State owned HLL Biotech Ltd

849 **Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to disinvest or lease out 100 per cent State owned HLL Biotech Ltd which runs the Integrated Vaccine Complex (IVC) situated in Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any expression of interest from the State Government of Tamil Nadu to take over the HLL Biotech Ltd on lease; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Closure of rural branches due to merger of banks

850 # **Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:**

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that as a result of merger of nationalized banks, some branches in rural areas have been closed by the banks due to which customers especially farmers/people in rural areas have to face problems;

- (b) the details of newly opened branches in rural areas by various banks during the last five years, State-wise; and
 (c) the details of branches closed by the various banks during the last five years, State-wise?

Union revenue collection

851 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) details regarding Union revenue as percentage of Indian GDP, year wise from 2010 to 2021 and separately for revenue from tax and non-tax sources;
 (b) whether as per 15th Finance Commission's Report 2021-2026, India's general Government revenue as a percentage of GDP is among lowest of BRICS countries and much below Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) average, if so, reasons therefor; and
 (c) whether Government is considering levying temporary taxes on corporate profits, capital gains and demerit goods to fund social security measures, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor and measures undertaken to increase revenue collection?

Defrauding of public sector banks

852 **Shri John Brittas:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

the number of cases where Indian banks are being defrauded to the tune of ₹ 500 crore and above by individuals and companies, and the details thereof?

Legislation on relief to revenue losing States under GST

853 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekar:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has prepared draft legislation on relief to revenue losing States under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime;
 (b) if so, the details thereof along with the terms of reference laid down for the panel constituted in this regard; and
 (c) the details of revenue earnings under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) for the last three years, month-wise?

Unclaimed deposits in banks

854 **Shri G.C. Chandrashekar:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large sum of unclaimed deposits are lying in various Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) and, if so, the details thereof, bank-wise;
 (b) whether there has been increase in such deposits year after year, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
 (c) whether Government has asked the SCBs to play a more proactive role in finding the whereabouts of the account holders of such deposits; and
 (d) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposes to set up, the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) scheme for promotion and protection of depositors interest and if so, the details thereof?

Investigation into Indian Railway tenders by DGGI

855 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Directorate General of Goods and Services Tax (GST) Intelligence (DGGI) has initiated an investigation into tenders awarded by Indian Railways since July 2017 to crack down on instances of misclassification of rail supplies by bidders who have been charged with evading taxes, following requests by two Government departments, Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), to Railways for quoting GST rate of goods to be procured in tender notices floated by offices of national transporter; and
- (b) if so, details thereof and present status thereof, as on date and action taken?

IRDAI guidelines for product design and pricing

856 **Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) worked out guidelines that aim at providing a framework for insurers to follow with respect to the product design and pricing and also asked all stakeholders to give their views; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and present status as on date?

Foreign Exchange Reserve Fund

857 **Shri Anil Desai:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the Foreign Exchange Reserve Fund of the country during the last five years;
- (b) the international currencies in our forex reserve; and
- (c) whether these reserve funds are adequate to meet the international payment obligations, if so, the details thereof?

Gold reserve of Government

858 **Shri Anil Desai:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the RBI has been in possession of gold reserve to be used in certain emergency;
- (b) if so, the gold reserve during 2001 to 2014 and also during 2014 to 2020;
- (c) whether any situation has ever been arisen compelling Government to pledge the gold reserve to any other entity to raise loan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Written off NPAs

859 **Smt. Chhaya Verma:**

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of loans declared as Non-Performing Assests (NPAs) during 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22, till date, public sector bank-wise and year-wise; and
- (b) the details of loans written off during 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 till date,

public sector bank-wise and year-wise?

Indiscriminate borrowings by State Government of Andhra Pradesh

860 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the borrowing limits of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has increased over a period of time which exceeded the limit prescribed by the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has taken any steps to restrain the State Government of Andhra Pradesh from indiscriminate borrowing by sending a communication to the State Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Financial condition of State of Andhra Pradesh

861 **Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has made any assessment/estimate regarding the poor financial condition of the State of Andhra Pradesh which, according to a CAG Report, has a fiscal deficit of ₹ 68,536 crore for the financial year 2020-21; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Releasing of GST share to States

862 **Dr. Banda Prakash:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- a) whether Government has released the States' share of GST dues to the States or any backlog is still there to release;
- b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- c) the details of GST share amount of each State due with the Union Government at present;
- d) whether it is a fact that Government is not in a position to pay the GST share of States as per the current revenue sharing formula; and
- e) if so, the details thereof?

Shortfall of receipts

863 **Shri Anand Sharma:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current estimated disinvestment receipts for the financial year 2020-21, vis-a-vis targets of the Union Budget 2020;
- (b) whether there is a shortfall and, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reasons for shortfall of receipts;
- (d) whether Government plans to overcome the shortfall in receipts during fiscal year 2021-22; and
- (e) if so, whether Government has assessed the impact of repeated waves of COVID-19 on disinvestment receipts and value of public assets to potential buyers?

Investigation of Panama Papers

864 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current status of investigation of Panama Papers, which earlier exposed how the rich and powerful parked and moved their money in and out of global tax havens;
- (b) the details of action taken in this regard so far; and
- (c) by when this six year old investigations will be completed and book the culprit?

Direct tax collections

865 **Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that direct tax collections for the first quarter of the current fiscal has doubled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the direct tax collections in the second quarter of the current fiscal;
- (d) the details of indirect tax collections of the first two quarters of the current fiscal;
- (e) to what extent Vivad-se-Vishwas scheme helps in boosting the collections; and
- (f) to what extent the above figures help in pushing GDP growth in the current financial year?

Revision of pension for bankers who retired after 2000

866 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that bank pensioners are demanding for pension revision since many years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that there is a disparity in pension for bankers who retired after 2000;
- (d) in spite of Supreme Court direction through the judgements, why the IBA is silent for many years; and
- (e) the amount in pension fund of public sector banks particularly in SBI and the details thereof?

Restoration of benefits of DA/DR

867 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is actively considering to raise monthly gross basic pay of Government employees after restoration of full benefits of Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) in accordance with fitment factor as per the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission;
- (b) if so, details of such increase post DA/DR restoration and whether pensioners will also be benefited due to this fitment factor; and
- (c) the details in terms of percentage of pending DA/DR restoration since January, 2020 and the quantum of installment of DA/DR of July, 2021 and when it is likely to be released to Government employees/pensioners?

Deposits in Swiss banks by Indian nationals

868 **Shri Naranbhai J. Rathwa:**

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that deposits by Indian nationals in Swiss banks have risen to more than ₹ 20,000 crore by the end of last fiscal reversing a two year trend and making a peak in over a decade;
- (b) if so, the factors of increase in deposits in Swiss banks;
- (c) the names of Indian companies who have huge amount of deposits in Swiss banks during the last three years; and
- (d) whether Government requested Swiss authorities to provide the relevant details of deposits and, if so, the details thereof?

Utilisation of unclaimed deposits of PSBs and insurance companies

869 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

Shri Sanjay Seth:

Will the Minister of **Finance** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is huge unclaimed deposits in various public/private sector banks and insurance companies in the country;
- (b) whether Government has any proposal to utilise such deposits for the welfare activities of social disadvantaged groups in the country and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has asked the banks to play a more proactive and meaningful role in finding the whereabouts of the account holders of such unclaimed deposits/inoperative accounts, if so, the details thereof and the achievements made as a result thereon?

People reinfected with COVID-19 virus

870 **Shri Surendra Singh Nagar:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are cases of people who have been reported as COVID-19 positive more than once;
- (b) if so, the total number of people tested positive more than once; and
- (c) if not, whether Government is prepared to act in such circumstances?

Welfare of ASHA workers during COVID-19 pandemic

871 **Shri Shamsher Singh Dullo:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds allocated to ensure minimum wage, health and life insurance to ASHA workers during COVID-19 pandemic;
- (b) the details of ASHAs who have received supplementary COVID-19 pay;
- (c) whether there has been a delay in remuneration of ASHAs, if so, the reasons therefor
- (d) the number of disbursements under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan (PMGK) package to ASHAs till June, 2021;
- (e) whether there has been delay in disbursements under the PMGK, if so, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether ASHAs fall under Code on Social Security and the Code of Wages, 2020; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Vaccine orders placed with foreign manufacturers

872 **Shri Kapil Sibal:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed timeline of the COVID-19 vaccines ordered by Government so far from various manufacturers;
- (b) the details of vaccines procured by Government so far;
- (c) whether orders have been placed with foreign vaccine manufacturers, if so, the details of manufacturers and the number of doses; and
- (d) by when the entire adult population is expected to be vaccinated?

Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR) Law

873 **Smt. Vandana Chavan:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005 are not legislative frameworks whose primary purpose is for Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEPR);
- (b) whether Government plans to introduce PHEPR Law which delineates powers, functions, scope and limits of Government and establishes a clear Public Health Emergency (PHE) communication and command structure with appropriate response modification by States defines and categorises PHEs, and dedicates a component of budget to PHEPR safeguarding individual and patient rights; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Study to assess impact of tobacco consumption on COVID patients

874 # **Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:**

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the effects on the COVID patients who were consuming tobacco specially cigarette, bidi and other tobacco substances;
- (b) the diseases caused by consuming tobacco substances;
- (c) the steps taken to reduce the consumption of tobacco in the country in view of diseases caused by it;
- (d) whether Government has proposed to increase additional tax on the tobacco products to discourage the consumption of tobacco; and
- (e) the current status thereof?

Fake COVID tests

875 **Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:**

Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the States where fake COVID tests have been reported during 2021, so far, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is aware that several private firms have been found to be involved in fake COVID tests rackets during COVID crisis endangering the lives of people;
- (c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (d) the details of action taken against the culprits, State-wise?

Status of vaccination drive in the country

876 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of people who received the first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine and the number of people who received the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether it is a fact that vaccination drive is running at a very slow pace due to lack of vaccine in the country; and
- (c) if not, the number of vaccines provided to different States from January 2021 to June 2021, State/UT-wise?

State/UT-wise lists of deaths due to COVID-19

877 # **Shri Narain Dass Gupta:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is preparing a State and UT-wise list of people died due to COVID-19;
- (b) if so, by when the list is likely to be finalised; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Beneficiaries of COVID vaccination

878 **Shri M.V. Shreyams Kumar:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of beneficiaries of COVID vaccination drive as on date, category- wise, State-wise;
- (b) whether Government is aware that the people are agitated against the undue delay for their second dose of vaccination and vaccination for the youngsters;
- (c) if so, the measures taken by Government to deal with the situation; and
- (d) the expected time by which the vaccination for the youngsters, 18 years and above could be covered?

COVID-19 vaccine for pregnant women

879 # **Shri Hardwar Dubey:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a separate COVID-19 vaccine is being proposed to be developed for the pregnant women; and
- (b) if so, by when this vaccine is likely to be available for use?

Out of the pocket spending on health

880 **Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of the pocket health spending forced 55 million Indians into poverty;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that 63 per cent of health spending is borne by households which is one of the highest in the world and only after Myanmar (76.5%) and Bangladesh (73.9%);
- (c) whether it is also a fact that India's out of pocket expenses is the highest among countries with most COVID-19 cases; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and how Ministry is planning to address the same?

Establishment of new Hospitals with own oxygen generating plants and virus repellent HEPA filters

881 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has chalked out any plan of establishing new hospitals with own oxygen generating units and virus repellent AC HEPA Filters in the country considering the effects of corona pandemic in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of funds allocated therefor; and
- (d) whether Government has any plans of making it mandatory to establish such equipments?

Establishment of Oxygen Plants in Andhra Pradesh

882 **Shri T.G. Venkatesh:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the oxygen plants available in the State of Andhra Pradesh, district-wise;
- (b) whether the present oxygen plants are not sufficient to cope with demand of hospitals in the State;
- (c) whether the Union Government has made any study on the status of the plants; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government for establishing more oxygen plants in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

Distribution of COVID-19 vaccine to States

883 **Dr. V. Sivadasan:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines that were distributed to the States, State-wise;
- (b) the number of doses required to complete vaccination process in India;
- (c) whether there is enough reserves of vaccines in India for completing 100 per cent vaccination; and
- (d) the plan for overcoming the shortage?

Pathetic condition of rural health centres

884 # **Shri Ram Nath Thakur:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the condition of rural healthcare centres of the country is pathetic in comparison to urban healthcare centres due to which innumerable people died owing to the shortages of medicine and oxygen in the second wave of COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (b) if so, whether Government proposes to make arrangements for infrastructural facilities i.e. deployment of doctors and nurses, installation of modern equipments and ventilators in all the existing rural healthcare centres to prevent the pandemic?

Fund allocation to UP for health infrastructure development

885 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Cabinet has approved ₹23,000 crores for health infrastructure improvement in the country in its meeting held on 8th July 2021;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of fund allocated for the State of Uttar Pradesh to improve health infrastructure out of the above; and
- (d) the details of infrastructure that is proposed to be upgraded or improved out of above fund?

Cases of Zika virus in the country

886 **Shri Neeraj Shekhar:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cases of Zika virus reported in the country, as on date, State-wise;
- (b) the details of number of deaths reported due to Zika virus, as on date, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has taken steps to contain spread of Zika virus in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Free vaccine supply to States and UTs

887 **Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had announced that States and UTs would get guaranteed channel of free vaccine supply;
- (b) if so, the details of vaccine allocation, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the vaccine would be administered in Government Hospitals for people above 45 years and frontline workers after May 1st, 2021; and
- (d) if so, the details of allocation of vaccine and expenditure incurred, State-wise?

Third phase of vaccination in India

888 **Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that from May 1st, 2021 in India's third phase of vaccination, vaccine shot is to be given to people of age between 18 to 45 years as announced by Government;
- (b) if so, whether the existing companies are able to produce the required quantities of vaccines to all the States and UTs;
- (c) whether Government has given any direction to manufacturing companies regarding allocation of vaccine to all the States and UTs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Extension of gap between two doses of AstraZeneca vaccine

889 **Shri Shaktisinh Gohil:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has doubled the gap between the two doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine saying that the extended gap was recommended by the National

Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI), based on real-life evidence mainly from Britain;

(b) whether Government is aware that three of the 14 members of the NTAGI have said that the body did not have enough data to make such a recommendation; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the miscommunication?

National Health Mission in West Bengal

890 Smt. Shanta Chhetri:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) the status of implementation of National Health Mission (NHM) in West Bengal during the last three years and the current year; (b) the details of funds released under NHM to West Bengal during the last three years and the current year; (c) the details of components under which the above said funds have been released in West Bengal; and (d) the details of each of the proposals received from the State Government of West Bengal under NHM during the last three years and action taken by Government on each of the above proposal?

Universal Immunization Programme

891 Smt. Ambika Soni:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Vaccines Preventable Diseases (VPDs) covered at present under the Universal Immunization Programme of the country;

(b) the total number of districts which have achieved 90 per cent full immunization coverage so far; and

(c) the time by when the country is likely to achieve its goal of Universal Immunization of children?

Underreported deaths during COVID-19 second wave

& 892 Dr. Santanu Sen:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several State Governments have underreported deaths due to COVID-19 during the second wave;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government plans to set up an inquiry into the under-reporting of deaths due to COVID-19 by various State Governments; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

New policy on Pneumonia to reduce infant mortality

893 # Dr. Ashok Bajpai:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pneumonia is the main reason for infant mortality in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to formulate a new policy with regard to Pneumonia in order to reduce infant mortality; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Type-1 diabetes patients in the country

894 # **Dr. Ashok Bajpai:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of Type-1 diabetes patients in India and whether any census has been conducted in this regard;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any welfare measures have been taken by Government for the poor children affected by type-1 diabetes since birth;
- (d) whether Government is considering to provide financial assistance for the expenditure incurred on the costly treatment like insulin therapy; and
- (e) if so, by when and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Reservation for OBC in All India Quota medical seats for UG and PG

895 **Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any policy decision to implement the reservation for OBC in All India Quota (AIQ) medical seats for UG and PG medical courses in this academic year (2021-2022), as per the recommendations made by the committee constituted under the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Madras;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware about the total number of seats denied to OBC candidates in AIQ medical (UG & PG) right from its inception due to non implementation of 27 per cent OBC reservation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

COVID-19 vaccine supply to private hospitals

896 # **Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav:**

Smt. Chhaya Verma:

Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccines made available to private hospitals to be administered till May, 2021;
- (b) the percentage of available vaccines that were administered by private hospitals till June 15, 2021; and
- (c) whether it is also a fact that many Government immunization centres were shut down due to shortage of vaccine till 20th June, 2021 while private hospitals had a large number of vaccines available?

Problems faced by economically and socially marginalised section during vaccination

897 **Dr. Amar Patnaik:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the issues faced by people from economically and socially marginalised sections, in pre-registering for vaccines on the CoWIN app including limited digital illiteracy, lack of access to smartphones or limited connectivity to the internet;
- (b) whether the Ministry is also aware that many rural Indians cannot take advantage of common service centres in villages because of travel and time costs incurred in accessing

them, delays in response and limited visibility; and
 (c) if so, the measures undertaken by the Ministry to ensure each of the above issues are resolved, if not, the reasons therefor?

Increase in oxygen beds and ICUs

898 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of oxygen beds and ICU beds increased across the country between March 2020 and March 2021, month-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the total additional oxygen generation plants set up across the country between March 2020 and March 2021, month-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the total fund utilised in setting up oxygen plants and the details of each plant, State-wise?

Extending gap between Covishield doses

899 Shri Mallikarjun Kharge:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that several members of the National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) have claimed that there was not enough data for them to make a recommendation on extending the gap between Covishield doses;
- (b) if so, the reason based on which the gap was extended by Government; and
- (c) if not, the details of the data that was presented before the NTAGI based on which the gap was extended?

Audit regarding quality of Ventilators

900 Shri Neeraj Dangri:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has initiated audit regarding quality of ventilators supplied to the States under PM CARES fund, if so, the details of the outcome of the audit report thereof;
- (b) whether there is any condition in agreement regarding installation and operation of the ventilators supplied to the States under PM CARES fund, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any clause of penalty in agreement for non-compliance regarding installation and operation of the ventilators, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether complaints have been received from the various States regarding non-functioning of the ventilators, if so, the details thereof?

Upgradation of healthcare system for effective management of COVID-19

901 Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps for upgrading the healthcare system so that it can stand up to any challenge that comes next keeping in view the sudden dangerous second wave of Corona in the country leaving the Government and the citizens in a fix;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has drawn any strategy for an effective management of COVID-19 particularly in rural areas with active collaboration of States?

Shortage of COVID-19 vaccines

902 **Shri Sushil Kumar Gupta:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many States are complaining of shortage of COVID-19 vaccines; and
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to augment the supply?

COVID-19 vaccine booster dose

903 **Shri Binoy Viswam:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the fact that many countries are adopting an approach of vaccine booster shots to ensure protection against COVID-19 and its various strains;
- (b) whether there is a need to take a booster dose of the vaccine after a certain period of time;
- (c) if so, Government's plan for the same and how it is ensuring sufficient vaccine supply;
- (d) whether Government has conducted any study on how long the COVID-19 vaccine is effective; and
- (e) whether Government has developed a long term vaccine strategy plan for COVID-19?

Black-marketing of medical resources during the second wave of COVID-19

904 **Shri Sanjay Singh:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the black marketing of medical resources in the country during the second wave of COVID-19 where medicines, oxygen and other resources were being sold off at exorbitant prices; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb such malpractices and action taken against such identified authorities?

Audit of oxygen supply during pandemic

905 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has done any audit regarding the mismanagement of oxygen supply during recent COVID situation in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the details of the facts regarding any such audit being done by Government so far?

National Human Organ Donation Bank

906 **Shri Iranna Kadadi:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is having any proposal to set up National Human Organ Donation Bank to facilitate the transplantation of human organs without involvement of any middleman and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has prepared any scheme to incentivise organ transplant and particularly in Belgaum; and

(c) the further steps taken by Government to popularise the scheme to create awareness among the citizens especially poor people in this regard?

Bacterial infections in COVID-19 recovered patients

907 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that COVID-19 patients who have recovered are left more susceptible to bacterial infections;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there has been a rise in incidence of bacterial infection cases across the country in the last few months;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the number of cases of severe tuberculosis reported over last three years, State-wise and year-wise?

ICMR royalty in Covaxin

908 **Dr. Narendra Jadhav:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that ICMR holds the royalty to Covaxin jointly with Bharat Biotech;
- (b) if so, the details of the MoU signed between ICMR and Bharat Biotech;
- (c) if not, whether it is a fact that ICMR is charging 5 per cent royalty on each sale of Covaxin;
- (d) if so, whether ICMR has any plans to drop royalty payment requirement so that price of Covaxin may be reduced;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Data on oxygen beds in India

909 **Shri Rajmani Patel:**

Shri Kumar Ketkar:

Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the current total number of oxygen beds available in the country's hospitals;
- (b) the number of oxygen beds added between March 2020 till date;
- (c) the total number of ventilator beds available in the country; and
- (d) the number of ventilator beds added between March 2020 till date?

Target for full vaccination against COVID-19

910 **Shri Anand Sharma:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons targeted for full vaccination against COVID-19 by November 1, 2021;
- (b) the current proportion of the target achieved as of July 1, 2021;
- (c) whether vaccination targets as of July 1, 2021 have been achieved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) the firm commitment of number of vaccine doses given to Government by vaccine manufacturers up to December 31, 2021; and

(f) the mitigation measures planned in case of delay or cancellation of supply of vaccine doses by manufacturers?

Measures to boost health sector

911 **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) the action that has been taken by Government to boost the health sector of the country with reference to devastating situation arisen due to present COVID-19 pandemic in the country wherein lakhs of people have died due to the lack of medical facilities such as oxygen, etc.; and

(b) the initiative taken by Government to enhance oxygen production and its smooth supply in the country for any forthcoming third wave of COVID-19?

Measures to check rising cases of cancers

912 **Shri Harnath Singh Yadav:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of diseases such as cancer is increasing tremendously in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to check this menace and measures taken by Government to provide free medicines and other health related items to these affected and helpless people long with the instructions issued to the State Governments in this regard?

Provisions for removal of designated smoking areas under COTPA, 2003

913 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

Shri K.T.S. Tulsi:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal or policy made by Government to remove the provision of allowing designated smoking areas under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA) for tobacco control and to reduce second hand smoking as followed in other countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Public comments and suggestion on draft COTPA Bill

914 **Shri Harshvardhan Singh Dungarpur:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

(a) the type of recommendations received to amend the COTPA Act, 2003 in view of the draft COTPA (Amendment) Bill placed by the Ministry in public domain inviting public comments and suggestions before Jan 31, 2021;

(b) the action taken by the Ministry on comments received from the public; and

(c) whether Government intends to introduce the bill in the ensuing Monsoon session?

Measures to streamline centrally sponsored health schemes

915 Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is proposing any measures to streamline the Centrally sponsored health scheme to prevent multiplicity and introduce a holistic health systems approach;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Permission for usage of COVID vaccines in India

916 **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of companies that have sought permission from Government to use COVID-19 vaccines in India;
- (b) whether Pfizer has sought permission from Government to use its COVID-19 vaccine in India;
- (c) whether it is a fact that Government has not given permission to COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Pfizer; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Efforts towards recognition for Covaxin in foreign countries

917 **Shri Abdul Wahab:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that Covaxin used in India as COVID vaccine is not recognised by many countries; and
- (b) the efforts that have been made by Government to resolve this issue?

Indemnity to foreign vaccine companies

918 **Shri A. Vijayakumar:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some foreign vaccine companies sought indemnity from the country for any adverse reactions after the administration of their vaccines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government will consider the request of indemnity; and
- (d) whether there is any international provision for indemnity to such companies?

Data on hospital beds in the country

919 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Will the Minister of *Health and Family Welfare* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted audits of the total number of hospital beds in Government hospitals in India, including hospital beds in the Central Government run hospitals;
- (b) if so, the details of the same by year from 2014 till date and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has conducted or intends to conduct an audit of the total number of hospital beds in private hospitals in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Pressure Swing Adsorption Oxygen Plants

920 **Shri Kumar Ketkar:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons why the Central Medical Services Society issued the call for bids to set up Pressure Swing Adsorption Oxygen plants only in October 2021; and
- (b) the details of oxygen plants that have been set up since March 2020 including the quantum of funds released per unit, the details of fully functional units, those are still under construction and those yet to be initiated?

Fake COVID vaccination camps

921 **Shri Sanjay Seth:**

Shri K.C. Venugopal:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government attention is drawn to fake COVID vaccination camps in some parts of the country and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of people who have been given fake vaccination;
- (c) whether Government has taken any action against the persons involved in fake vaccination camps and, if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by Government to prevent fake COVID vaccination; and
- (e) the other steps taken by Government to provide vaccination free of cost to all people in age group of 18 years and above in a time bound manner?

High incidence of congenital abnormalities in rural areas

922 **Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for the high incidence of congenital abnormalities in rural India;
- (b) whether any study has been undertaken in this regard, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether there is any program by Government to extend Rubella vaccination to all girl children in India under Universal Immunization Programme?

Non utilisation of vaccination manufacturing units

923 **Shri P. Wilson:**

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) reasons for not utilising three vaccination manufacturing units at HLL Biotech, Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu, BCG Vaccine Laboratory, Chennai and Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, Tamil Nadu for manufacturing of COVID-19 vaccines despite requests from Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu;
- (b) details of COVID-19 vaccines distributed to all States, brand-wise, and total expenditure incurred in purchase of vaccines by Government till end of June 2021, brand wise and cost of each vial for each brand; and
- (c) steps taken by Government to get immediate EUL Clearance from WHO for Covishield and Covaxin so as to enable Indian citizens to move freely abroad?

Opening of Bio Labs in Tamil Nadu

924 **Shri Vaiko:**

Shri M. Shanmugam:

Will the Minister of **Health and Family Welfare** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Tamil Nadu submitted a memorandum for opening of two Bio-Labs in the State, one at Chengalpattu and the other at Coonoor;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the reason for not making the Bio-Labs operational for COVID vaccine production, when there is a demand for such vaccines even for export purposes; and
- (d) by what time these labs would become operational for production?

Grid-Connected Rooftop Solar Programme

925 **Dr. Vikas Mahatme:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of implementation of phase 2 of Grid Connected Rooftop Solar Programme; and
- (b) the quantum of the funds that have been released under this scheme till date?

Capacity enhancement of new and renewable energy projects

926 # **Shri Ramkumar Verma:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any survey to increase the capacity of new and renewable energy projects in the country, especially in Rajasthan and Gujarat, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the total number of said projects approved in the country, especially in Rajasthan & Gujarat during the last five years and the current year 2020-21 and the names of places where they have been implemented in the said States; and
- (c) the total expenditure incurred by Government to start/ re-start said projects and details of technical and financial assistance provided for the same?

Solar energy target

927 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has achieved solar energy generation target set for the current year so far;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the future targets of Government in this regard?

Solar panels for Government schools

928 **Shri Sanjay Raut:**

Will the Minister of **New and Renewable Energy** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is considering to bring any scheme to install solar power panels in various Government schools that will help schools to reduce their electricity bill and the students to study without any trouble from power cuts; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Details of National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules

929 # **Smt. Geeta alias Chandraprabha:**

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the expected benefits from the Production Linked Incentive Scheme called "National Programme on High Efficiency Solar PV Modules"; and
- (b) the manner in which the solar PV manufacturers would be selected under the said scheme?

Additional capacity created under PM KUSUM

930 # **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the achievement against the target of 30.8 GW additional solar power capacity by the year 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (b) the details of additional irrigation potential created through PM KUSUM scheme, State-wise; and
- (c) the income received by selling additional electricity to farmers from grid connected solar power plants since the introduction of the scheme till date under PM KUSUM scheme, the details thereof, State-wise?

Boosting sources of renewable energy in the country

931 **Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:**

Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives taken by Government to reduce the Carbon foot print and to boost the renewable sources of energy such as solar and wind energy in the country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the guidelines framed by Government in this regard and the instructions issued to State Governments to boost these sectors?

Popularising roof top solar power system

932 **Shri M. Shanmugam:**

Will the Minister of ***New and Renewable Energy*** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of and analysed the reason for low take-off of rooftop solar power system in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any subsidy element is being proposed for rooftop solar project, especially in rural areas where the energy supply is not dependable; and
- (d) the efforts made by Government to popularise rooftop solar system in the country in coordination with the State Governments?

Rural electrification in Balrampur-Ramanujganj district in Chhattisgarh

933 # **Shri Ram Vichar Netam:**

Will the Minister of ***Power*** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of villages not yet electrified till date in Balrampur-Ramanujganj district of Chhattisgarh, the development block-wise details thereof;
- (b) the villages where electric supply has not yet started till date, even after completion of

the work related to electric line extension; and
 (c) the number of applications received for electricity connection till date, alongwith the number of application pending in this regard?

Development schemes for Uttar Pradesh

934 Shri Syed Zafar Islam:

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the schemes launched by the Ministry of Power since 2014 till date along with the details of targets set and achievements made under each of the said schemes; and
- (b) the details of the proposals received from Uttar Pradesh along with the proposals approved and sponsored by the Ministry under the schemes for Uttar Pradesh?

Delay in use of FGD Technology by thermal power plants

935 Dr. Vikas Mahatme:

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken serious cognisance of the fact that India is the world's largest emitter of Sulphur Dioxide;
- (b) the reasons for delay in implementation of new emission norms using Flue- Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) technology for thermal power plants;
- (c) whether Government plans to implement the same only in less than 15 per cent of the units; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, and reasons for the same including the reduction target?

Installation of Sulphur controlling technology in power plants

936 # Shri Rewati Raman Singh:

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coal fired power stations in the country having Sulphur controlling technology;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the target of installing Sulphur controlling technology in 75 to 80 per cent of the coal power stations in the country by 2022 is becoming difficult to be achieved;
- (c) whether any organization of thermal power plants has requested Government to extend the deadline till 2024 for installation of this facility in power stations; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Complete electrification in the country

937 # Smt. Kanta Kardam:

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has achieved the target of complete electrification of all the rural and urban areas in the country, if so, the details thereof, and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) the details regarding ratio of electrification across the country, State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has ensured 24 hrs electric supply to all urban and rural areas in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the steps being taken to ensure 24 hrs electric supply in all areas of the country, alongwith timeline fixed, in this regard?

Thermal power generation in the country

938 **Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah:**

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of thermal power generation in the country during the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the dependence on thermal power has reduced over the years keeping in view India's commitment to sustainable development goals;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to achieve sustainable development in power generation?

Installation of smart meters

939 **Shri K.C. Venugopal:**

Shri Sanjay Seth:

Will the Minister of **Power** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Tariff Policy has mandated provision of smart electricity meters in premises of all consumers consuming more than 200 units of electricity per month in a phased manner and, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the aims and objective of installing smart electricity meters in premises;
- (c) the number of smart meters sanctioned under the National Smart Grid Mission to different States;
- (d) the time by which the installation of smart meters will be started and completed; and
- (e) whether time frame has been fixed for installation of smart meters in a time bound manner and, if so, the details thereof?

Promotion of scientific temper by CSIR

940 **Shri P. Bhattacharya:**

Lt.Gen. (Dr.) D. P. Vats (Retd.):

Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar:

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) plays a prominent role in providing necessary base of knowledge for the social and economic development of the country including that of rural areas and small cities;
- (b) if so, the achievements and performance thereof during the last two years;
- (c) whether CSIR has taken several new measures to imbibe scientific acumen among the youths; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

CSIR laboratories in Kerala

941 **Shri John Brittas:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount transferred to CSIR labs located in Kerala; and
- (b) whether the Ministry has estimated the employment generation potential of these labs, if so, the details thereof?

Participation of girls in science stream

942 **Shri Akhilesh Prasad Singh:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that participation of girl students in science streams in the country is far from satisfactory;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to popularize science stream at higher secondary level among girl students;
- (c) whether the schemes are being run by the Ministry to encourage and promote women researchers in the field of science and technology; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Scientific Social Responsibility policy

943 # **Shri Mahesh Poddar:**

Will the Minister of **Science and Technology** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to implement a policy of Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) on the lines of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to link science with society and encourage science and technology based institutions- scientists;
- (b) if so, the responsibility to be borne by the scientists, knowledge-workers and institutions of the country under the said policy and the direct and indirect benefits expected to society and country from the same, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether a proposal is also included to give weightage to individual SSR activities in the evaluation of annual performance of scientists/ knowledge workers/ institutions under the said policy, and the details thereof?

Effect of COVID-19 pandemic on tourism sector

944 **Shri Elamaram Kareem:**

Will the Minister of **Tourism** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any estimates of the job loss in tourism sector due to COVID-19 and lockdown;
- (b) the impact of COVID-19 and lockdown on tourism sector in terms of revenue received; and
- (c) the actions taken by Government to revive this sector post COVID-19?

Tourism in Sarguja division in Chhattisgarh

945 # **Shri Ram Vichar Netam:**

Will the Minister of **Tourism** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of schemes implemented/being implemented by Government for the development and promotion of tourism in Sarguja division of Chhattisgarh;
- (b) the places identified for the development and promotion of tourism in Sarguja division along with the year-wise details of funds allocated/spent/leftover for the schemes being implemented at these places and the works undertaken during last three years and current year; and
- (c) whether Government has received any proposal for the sanctioning of funds under Swadesh Darshan scheme, if so, the details thereof?

Impetus to tourism and hospitality sector

946 **Shri Kapil Sibal:**

Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy:

Dr. Banda Prakash:

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps being taken to provide impetus to the tourism and hospitality sector;
- (b) whether Government has provided any financial support to the tourism and hospitality industry, if so, details of how much money has been spent and where; and
- (c) number of people who have lost their jobs in the sector due to COVID-19 and the corresponding economic setback?

Development of medical tourism in the country

947 **Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there exist any policies for the regulation of the private medical sector with respect to medical tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) details of the financial assistance granted to the Wellness Tourist Service Providers and the Medical Tourist Service Providers under the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme during the last four years;
- (d) whether any COVID-19-centric measures have been taken for the promotion of medical and wellness tourism; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Development of Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

948 **Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are number of Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar;
- (b) how many of them are developed and how many of them are undeveloped from the perspective of tourism;
- (c) efforts Government is making to attract tourists from Buddhist countries and collaborate with these countries to develop these pilgrimage sites;
- (d) whether Government plans to organise Buddhist festivals in the countries with overwhelmingly Buddhist population; and
- (e) whether the Ministry has any plan to create Buddhist circuit between Kushinagar (UP) and Bodhgaya (Bihar) to facilitate and attract tourists?

Development of Konark Temple as an Iconic Tourist site

949 **Dr. Sasmit Patra:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

the Status of development of Konark Temple as an Iconic Tourist site?

Swadesh Darshan Scheme for Darjeeling

950 **Smt. Shanta Chhetri:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Darjeeling is a renowned tourist destination in the country;
- (b) whether under the 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' any project has been earmarked for the Darjeeling region; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

Scheme for providing facilities at tourist places

951 # **Ms. Saroj Pandey:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has formulated any action plan for development and modernization of facilities provided at various tourist places of the country; and
- (b) if so, the nature of the said scheme and the number of tourist spots that have been covered under the scheme and the details thereof, State-wise?

Health of tourism sector during COVID-19 pandemic

952 **Shri Tiruchi Siva:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of revenue generated from tourism during Financial Year 2020-21; and
- (b) the measures being taken by Government to revive the Tourism industry?

Decline in tourism

953 # **Shri Rewati Raman Singh:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that at present the tourism industry has declined by about 60 percent;
- (b) if so, the immediate steps that Government proposes to take to overcome this decline; and
- (c) whether Government is working on any scheme to make tourism in India more accessible to the common man?

Tourism projects in the North Eastern States

954 **Smt. Jharna Das Baidya:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the names of the tourism projects sponsored by Government during 2019-20 and 2021 in the North Eastern States;
- (b) whether Government has sanctioned any amount against any project in tourist places in the State of Tripura;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Relaunch of Incredible India campaign

955 **Dr. Ameer Yajnik:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal for relaunching Incredible India campaign in post Covid situation in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any other proposal in this regard?

Promotion of tourism amid COVID-19 pandemic

956 **Dr. Banda Prakash:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received proposals from States for increased allocation of funds for development and promotion of tourism in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, if so, the response of Government thereto;
- (b) whether Government has framed any guidelines for hotels and tourism industry in the country for promotion of tourism in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government proposes to compensate the tourism industry by other methods like tax rebate or reduced liability on terms of Employee Provident Fund and more, if so, the details thereof?

Developing Ramayana Circuit

957 **Smt. Priyanka Chaturvedi:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any proposal to develop Ramayana Circuit in near future;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether any other religions circuit is also in process?

Revival of tourism post pandemic

958 **Shri A. Vijayakumar:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken to revive tourism in the country both from the point of domestic and international tourists which have been affected due to the pandemic;
- (b) the loss to revenue due to pandemic in both the Government and private sector; and
- (c) when will the flight services to foreign countries for domestic travellers be open for tourism purpose?

COVID-19 associated losses to the tourism sector

959 **Shri Partap Singh Bajwa:**

Will the Minister of *Tourism* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted any research on the financial losses to the tourism sector due to the COVID-19 crisis and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the number of foreign tourists who visited India during 2019-20 and 2020-21 till present;
- (c) the number of domestic tourists who travelled within India during 2019-20 and 2020-21 till present;
- (d) whether Government provided any incentives or assistance to those engaged in the tourism sector and, if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the total number of people employed in the tourism sector for the years 2018-19 till present, State-wise?

Threat of COVID-19 at tourist places

960 # **Shri Brijlal:**

Will the Minister of **Tourism** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that after the second wave of coronavirus in the recent past, the movement of people from all States of the country increased at tourist places, which raised fears of the increase in corona positive cases;
- (b) whether any appropriate steps are being taken to ensure that the thronging of tourists at tourist spots, and agencies and businesses related to tourism follow COVID-19 related protocols; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

New Delhi
The 20th July, 2021
29 Ashadha 1943 (Saka)

Desh Deepak Verma,
Secretary-General.

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